

The Alexandria Gazette

WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 26.

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—"*Multum in Parvo.*"

—Nathan G. Roberts, of Norfolk, Va., and recently of the firm of Dawson & Co., was drowned whilst bathing in the river at Washington, on Monday last.—The experiment of cleaning out the Washington canal is going on successfully.—Argle Prichett, of Camden, N. J., has been arrested for passing himself off as one of Baker's detectives, and going into people's houses for the purpose of plundering.—The draft in New York continues to go on quietly, though the military precautions are kept up and the military force is increased.—Since the commencement of the siege of Charleston a correspondence has been going on between Gens. Gillmore and Beauregard in relation to the proper observance of the rules of war, the return of wounded negro prisoners, &c., &c.—The Richmond Dispatch advocates the policy on the part of the Confederates of abandoning the sea board, and concentrating their forces in the interior.—Rev. Dr. Cummins has resigned the rectorship of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Baltimore; he has accepted the rectorship of a church in Chicago.—We have to-day's mail nothing further from the Army of the Potomac; Gen. Lee is said to be 60,000 strong and his headquarters near Culpeper Court House.—Gold, in New York, yesterday, 122½.—Mr. William Woody, an aged and highly respectable citizen of Baltimore, well known as a book and job printer, died in that city on Monday.—A man, a deserter, has been arrested in Baltimore, charged with being concerned in the murder of Jeremiah Fisher, whose dead body was lately found in Druid Hill Park.—The rain of yesterday afternoon, and last night extended a considerable distance.—Sickness, to a considerable extent, is said to prevail in Montgomery county, Md.—The Fairmount, Va., National denounces the idea of running Geo. W. Summers for Congress in the Third district of West Virginia, calls him "a thirteenth hour convert to the cause of the Union," and says that "Carline is infinitely more deserving than Summers," &c.—A number of new U. S. vessels of war, iron-clads and others, will be launched from different navy yards in the month of September.—The steamer Great Eastern arrived at New York yesterday.—The coal trade in Pennsylvania, is a little dull just now, but there is no material change in prices.—The army officers who were lately engaged in a duel in New Jersey have been ordered to the front.—It is said that Mr. Upton, of Fairfax county, Va., has been appointed Consul to Genoa, not Geneva, as has been published.—A son of the late Gen. Lloyd Tilghman of Md., was killed lately in Mississippi by a fall from his horse.—The Paris L' Opinion Nationale, said to be Prince Napoleon's organ, condemns Louis Napoleon's policy with regard to Mexico.—Several vessels under the Confederate flag were at last dates at Bermuda, waiting for coal.—The Richmond Dispatch states that Gov. Vance, of N. C., is in Richmond, conferring with the Confederate authorities in relation to state defences, and that the reports in relation to his wishing to give up the Southern cause are not true.—Secreta-

ry Welles has ordered the sailors in the fleet before Charleston to be kept supplied, as far as possible, with ice, lemons, fresh meats, &c.—Dr. William M. Hammond, late of Baltimore, died in Richmond on the 4th inst.

A correspondent writes:—"I thank you for your 'word in season,' the other day, in relation to the discipline of boys, and sending them to school, or putting them to trades.—Many a parent, indifferent to good advice now, will wish, when their children grow up, that they had heeded what you say, and thought of something else in preference to huckstering in the streets; and the boys themselves will lament the folly and infatuation of their parents."

It is a good rule, for health and comfort, to accommodate one's clothing to the weather, and to change garments to suit the changes of temperature. This is the season in our climate when care with regard to this matter, should always be taken.

Numbers of small tenements, very frail and temporary in their structure, are going up in different parts of the town, principally in the suburbs.

There was a fine rain last night, and this morning the weather was quite cool. Both the rain and the change in the temperature were very agreeable.

The Excursion to Glymont takes place tomorrow.

Grenada, the point at which the Federal cavalry some days since captured and destroyed fifty-seven locomotives, four hundred cars, and other Confederate property, is a village in Yalabusha county, Mississippi, on the Yalabusha river, one hundred and thirteen miles northeast of Jackson.

A letter just received in Washington from a Federal officer in the Libby prison at Richmond, Va., says that there are nearly six hundred officers of the United States army, including chaplains and surgeons, now in Confederate hands in that city. They are very anxious, of course, for an exchange.

The Confederate cavalymen appeared again last night on the towing-path of the canal, about twenty-five miles from Georgetown, but did no damage, as the boats that were hailed told them that other boats were near loaded with troops. They were in squads of fifteen or eighteen.

Information has been received that a large amount of counterfeit U. S. treasury notes—fives, tens, twenties and fifties—are in circulation in the South. They are presumed to be of English manufacture.

A conscript in Lewistown, Me., claimed to have "piazza on the heart." The doctor passed him, and his next disease will be "burea on the back."

The Democratic National Committees which were to hold a joint session about this time in Chicago or Detroit, are to assemble for consultation in a few days. Some of the members have already arrived for this purpose.

The adjustment of prize money is now occupying the attention of the Fourth Auditors office. Upwards of thirty million dollars are now in process of settlement. Amongst other cases is that of the Peterhoff recently adjudged a prize. The value of ship and cargo is estimated at a million of dollars.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

A telegram from Charleston to Richmond dated August 22d says: "Gen. Gillmore's demand for the surrender of Fort Sumter and Morris Island, with a threat to shell Charleston in four hours from the delivery of the paper at Wagner, was signed and returned at seven o'clock this morning. Gen. Beauregard, in his reply, charges inhumanity and violation of the laws of war, and affirms that if the offence be repeated he will employ stringent measures of retaliation. Up to this time the threat to shell the city has not been executed."

The schooner M. Rogers, from Folly Island on the 20th, reports that at six o'clock that day the entire top of Fort Sumter was completely gone. Every parapet gun was dismounted and knocked into the sea, and the siege was progressing terribly in earnest. It was also reported that Fort Wagner would soon surrender.

The Richmond Examiner of the 25th has been received, with Charleston dates to the 24th, saying: "At twelve o'clock last night the enemy opened fire on the city, firing fifteen eight-inch Parrot shells. Non-combatants are leaving the city in continuous streams."

KEESE, THE AUCTIONEER.—Many have listened often to the play of wit of Mr. John Keese, the well known auctioneer of New York. No catalogue could be too dull for his vivacity. He was always rapid, and an unwary customer would be decapitated by his quick electric jest before he felt the stroke. The following among other things of the kind attributed to him, will give some notion of his pleasantries: "Is that binding call?", asked a suspicious purchaser. "Come up, my good sir, put your hand on it and see if there is any fellow feeling," was the ready reply. A person one evening had a copy of "Watts's Hymns" knocked down to him for a trifle, and interrupted the business of the clerk by calling for its "delivery." Keese, finding out the cause of the interference, exclaimed, "Oh give the gentleman the book. He wants to learn and sing one of the hymns before he goes to bed to-night!" Apropos of this time-honored book, in selling a copy on another occasion, when there was some rivalry in the profession, he turned off a parody as he knocked it down:

Blest is the man who shuns the place
Where other auctions be;
And has his money in his fist,
And buys his books of me.

His puns were usually happy, slipped in adroitly. Offering one of the Rev. Dr. Hawk's books, he added, in an explanatory way, "A bird of pray." "Going—going—gentlemen—one shilling for Caroline Fry—why, it isn't the price of a stew. Akin to this was his observation to a purchaser who had secured a copy of "Bacon's Essays" for twelve-and-a-half cents, "That's too much pork for a shilling!"

"This," said he, holding up a volume of a well-known type to critics, "is a book by a poor and pious girl, of poor and pious poems." No one could better introduce a quotation. Some women one day found their way into the auction room to a miscellaneous sale of furniture. They were excited to an emulous contention for a saucepan, or something of the sort. Keese gave them a fair chance with a final appeal—"going—going—" the woman who deliberates is lost—gone.

Twenty-one runaway slaves, from Calvert and Prince George's counties, Md., composed of men, women and children, were arrested on Monday evening last, in Baltimore, and subsequently conducted to the city jail, there to await the requisition of their masters.

At last accounts ice was selling in Richmond, Va., at \$15 per bushel; whisky juleps at 1.50a \$2, and French brandy juleps at 2a \$2.50 each.